

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A convertible furniture piece, comprising:
 - a base;
 - a first quick-release locking mechanism attached to said base;
 - a first cushion member having a first surface supported on said base; and
 - a first support bracket removably attached to said base by said first quick-release locking mechanism, said first support bracket engaging a second surface of said first cushion member and adapted to solely provide lateral support thereto, wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.
2. The furniture piece of claim 1 wherein said first cushion member is selected from the group consisting of a back rest and an arm rest.
3. The furniture piece of claim 1 wherein said first and second surfaces are substantially perpendicular.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first support bracket includes a header and at least one leg extending generally perpendicular therefrom.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first support bracket further includes a flange portion having a slot engaging said first quick-release locking mechanism.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first quick-release locking mechanism includes a threaded fastener engaging said base.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of a sofa base, a loveseat base and a chair base.

8. The furniture piece of claim 1 further comprising:
a second quick-release locking mechanism attached to said base;
a second cushion member having a first surface supported on said base;
and

a second support bracket removably attached to said base by said second quick-release locking mechanism, said second support bracket engaging a second surface of said second cushion member and providing unilateral support thereto, wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

9. The furniture piece of claim 8 wherein said first and second cushion members are each back rests.

10. The furniture piece of claim 8 wherein said first and second cushion members are each arm rests.

11. The furniture piece of claim 8 wherein said first cushion member is one of an arm rest and a back rest and said second cushion member is the other of an arm rest and a back rest.

12. The furniture piece of claim 11 wherein said arm rest has a first dimension and said back rest has a second dimension corresponding to said first dimension that is larger than said first dimension.

13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second cushion members are interchangeable.

14. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first and second support brackets are interchangeable.

15. A method of assembling a convertible furniture piece, said method comprising:

positioning a first support bracket into engagement with a first quick-release locking mechanism that is attached to a base;

manipulating said first quick-release locking mechanism to removably attach said first support bracket to said base; and

positioning a first cushion member having a first surface and a second surface on said base such that said base engages said first surface and said first support bracket engages said second surface to solely provide lateral support to said first cushion member;

wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of selecting a base from the group consisting of a sofa base and a loveseat base prior to positioning a first support bracket generally adjacent to a base.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of selecting a first cushion member from the group consisting of an arm rest and a back rest prior to positioning a first cushion member.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein said steps of removably attaching a first support bracket and a second support bracket to said base each include threading a fastener into a bore formed in said base.

19. The method of claim 15 further comprising:

positioning a second support bracket into engagement with a second quick-release locking mechanism that is attached to said base;

manipulating said second quick-release locking mechanism to removably attach said second support bracket to said base; and

positioning a second cushion member having a first surface and a second surface on said base such that said base engages said first surface and said second support bracket engages said second surface to solely provide lateral support to said second cushion member;

wherein said first and second surfaces are disposed in intersecting planes.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said positioning of said first and second cushion members is interchangeable.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein said positioning of said first and second support brackets is interchangeable.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of positioning a first support bracket includes positioning said first support bracket generally adjacent to a first side of said base and said step of positioning a second support bracket includes positioning said second support bracket generally adjacent to a second

side of said base, wherein said first and second sides of said base are perpendicular.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of positioning a first support bracket includes positioning said first support bracket generally adjacent to a first side of said base and said step of positioning a second support bracket includes positioning said second support bracket generally adjacent to a second side of said base, wherein said first and second sides of said base are parallel.

24. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of selecting a second cushion member from the group consisting of an arm rest and a back rest prior to positioning a second cushion member.